Second Member of Council.—It is under the management of the Revenue Department and if a specific representation is made to the Revenue Commissioner, he will examine the whole affair himself.

Mr. C. Narasimhaiya.—There is no water even in Bannur tank. I cannot understand why the Public Works Department should not supply water. We generally go to Government after all our trials have failed. When a body represent their urgent grievance by wire, Government should see that immediate orders are passed, instructing the authorities concerned to expedite the matter at once. A stitch in time saves nine.

Second Member of Council.—It is not possible to arrange for orders being issued on telegraphic complaints.

SUBJECT NO. 146.

Revision of the schedule of rates in the Public Works Department.

Messrs. (1) A. V. Suryanarayana Setty, Arkalgud Taluk and (2) V. Shamiengar and N. Puttanna, T.-Narsipur Taluk; H. Varadaiya, T.-Narsipur Municipality; P. R. Lakshminaranappa, Mugur Municipality and B. V. Rangaya, French Rocks Sub-Taluk.

Mr. A. V. Suryanarayana Chetty.—The old schedule rates in the Public Works Department may be revised as timber, brick, etc., cannot be had according to the old rates owing to the rise in prices and many Government works cannot be completed on this account.

Mr. V. Shamiengar.—Contractors are failing to come forward to take up Government works on contract, on the ground that the rates fixed by Government are too low. Many works are pending execution and the amounts allotted therefor are lapsed. It is very difficult nowadays to get coolies at old rates. Proper facilities may be afforded to have the works executed by enhancement of rates.

Second Member of Council.—Inconveniences have been brought to the notice of the Government. The subject was discussed at the meeting of Deputy Commissioners when it was decided that the Chief Engineer should be asked to send statements of rates either half-yearly or quarterly. The Chief Engineer has promised to send a schedule of rates and it will be sent to various officers for information and guidance so as to minimise trouble in this respect in future.

TECHNICAL.—(ELECTRICAL.)

(Nos. 147 to 148.)

SUBJECT NO. 147.

Reduction of Electric charges.

Messrs. (1) Karnick Krishnamurtni Rao, Magadi Taluk and (2) M. Ramachandra Rao Sindhe, and K. B. Puttappa, Mysore Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Karnick Krishnamurti Rao.—A minimum charge is fixed for consumption of electric power. It often happens that this minimum quantity is not utilised. All the same, the minimum charge has to be paid. The actual quantity used should be charged.

Concession rates may be given to those who use power for industrial purposes and lighting charges should be reduced to 2 annas per unit.

Second Member of Council.—The Electric Department is a commercial concern. Our charges for electric power are the lowest and are so fixed as to yield a certain percentage on the capital outlay after deducting depreciation and interest charges. Our charges are the cheapest in the whole world. Mr. Forbes has written to Government to enchance the rates of electric power. It is not possible to reduce the rates. If you are not using the power, you can just inform the authorities concerned and they will cut off the current.

Mr. Karnich Krishnamurti Rao.—Sir K. Seshadri Iyer said that the electric lighting charges would be cheaper than the price of kerosine oil. A rebate may be given once a quarter. Besides, it is unreasonable to charge metre hire at 8 annas per month. Instead, we might be allowed to buy our own metres.

Third Member of Council.—If there is no minimum charge fixed, the whole concern will be a loss.

Mr. K. T. Seshaiya.—The rates of electric power should be raised in Bangalore and Mysore as the other Districts are not enjoying this benefit.

Second Member of Council.—The rates of electric power cannot be reduced.

SUBJECT No. 148.

Tram and Telephone services.

Messrs. Venkatamuniah Setty, Arya Vaisya Mahasabha, Bangalore and Mr. Ramachandra Rao Sindhe and B.K. Puttappa, Mysore Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Ramachandra Rao Sindhe.—Tram and telephone services may be introduced in Bangalore and Mysore cities as trade and industries are much hampered for want of them.

Second Member of Council.—A scheme has been prepared for extending the telephone service in Bangalore and Mysore, but it could not be given effect to on account of the war. Enquiries are being made for the necessary plant. Telephone service could be given to every house as electric power is being given. Tram service will not be a profitable concern if introduced in Mysore, but in Bangalore the re survey work is about to be started and as soon as plans and estimates are ready, further steps will be taken in the matter.